

ALBANY WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
February 22, 2019

A regular meeting of the Albany Water Board was officially convened at 9:05 am, in the Conference Room at the Albany Water Board, 10 North Enterprise Drive, Albany, NY on Friday, February 22, 2019.

PRESENT: Charles Houghton, Chairperson; Rachel Johnson, Vice Chairperson; Anthony Owens, Treasurer; Barbara Smith, Secretary

EXCUSED: Karen Strong, Assistant Secretary

STAFF PRESENT: Joseph E. Coffey, Jr., P.E., Commissioner; Jessica Carpenter, Accountant; Emily Lyons, Confidential Assistant

BOARD ADVISORS PRESENT: William Kahn (UHY Advisors)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Charles Houghton introduced the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 25, 2019. With no objection, the reading of minutes was dispensed and Mr. Houghton called for a motion to approve the minutes of said meetings. A motion was made, and seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Houghton also took note to congratulate AWD staff on the Engineering Award received for the Smart Infrastructure (The Beaver Creek CSO Abatement and Flood Mitigation Project) from the NYS Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies.

Public Comment Period

No public comments; however, the public comment from the January 25 meeting was discussed. Commissioner Coffey updated the board that multiple discussions have occurred with this customer in the past and she was informed that she can appeal to the County if she chooses to.

Committee and Staff Reports

Financial Report: Jessica Carpenter, Accountant

Current numbers in the financial report will change as 2018 Purchase Orders are continued to be closed. January experienced a significant amount of miscellaneous income. This included payments received from the Albany POOL communities, auctioned vehicles, and the Coeymans tax assessment refund. As the first month of the year, January is also low in expenses. There have been no capital expenses yet for the year; however, overtime is above budget due to 22 main breaks in January.

Commissioner's Report: Joseph Coffey, P.E., Commissioner

Water Main Breaks: We are starting to look at data to correlate depth of pipes and occurrence of breaks. We are also looking to incorporate more asset management of pipes to prioritize replacement and maintenance.

Key Performance Indicators: We are at 10% over budgeted revenues and at 70% of expense budget as we are still adding staff. As more staff is added, we will need to find more office space, which will probably be done by adding a modular unit. We are also adding social media metrics and other performance indicators to future KPI reports.

Beaver Creek Clean River Project: We are currently gathering video of the Third Avenue sewer and will meet again with South End residents sometime in April to discuss results. We are also moving along with SEQRA requirements for the project.

Tivoli Stream Daylighting Project: The project experienced some flooding due to rain, and so the contractor had to do some rework at the site.

Upper Washington Sewage PS and Force Main project and Water Booster PS and Tank project: No major updates; work is progressing on projects.

Ramsey Place Project: We held a community meeting on Feb 6 where residents shared opinions and staff listened. With the changes to the design, we will still capture 150,000 gallons of water and the only major complaint from some residents is the narrowing of the road. This project is just one of many similar green infrastructure projects that will be planned City wide. The project also plans to add more trees and should be completed by October. The project will also allow for replacement of lead water services at no cost to the property owners.

2019 AWD One Page Plan and Updated AWD Organization Chart: The updated organization chart will help in holding people accountable for their units. The one page plan outlines the major goals for the year with metrics, such as continuing to improve safety and adding staffing capability in our engineering department.

Rensselaer Lake Dam Safety Improvements: We received a \$5 million estimate from consultant, which we felt was high. Rensselaer Lake is also no longer considered an emergency water supply source, as emergency water can now be gathered from the interconnects made with Colonie's water system. We are reviewing alternate ideas with DEC that could cost less, such as lowering the lake, and alternate mitigation strategies.

Sheridan Avenue Flood Mitigation: We are currently having discussions with the Church in this location about adding stormwater storage under their parking lot to help with flood mitigation for the area.

Old Business

Proposed Senior Discount Program: Tabled until next meeting.

Resolutions

Mr. Houghton called for a motion to approve each of the following resolutions. A motion was made and seconded for each; and each passed unanimously.

- Resolution 19-10: Endorsing the Water Department 2019 One Page Plan
- Resolution 19-11: Extending the Contract with Capital Safety Services for the first option year (April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020)
- Resolution 19-12: Approving Change Order #5 To Contract 1a – General Construction – Feura Bush Filtration Plant Employee And Public Space Improvements With U.W. Marx
- Resolution 19-13: Approving Change Order #1 to the Tivoli Preserve Stream Daylighting Project with Wm. J. Keller & Sons.
- Resolution 19-14: Determination that the Action to Undertake the Mereline Avenue Sewer Separation and Stormwater Storage Project is a Type II Action and No Further Action is Required under SEQRA
- Resolution 19-15: Declaration of Lead Agency pursuant to SEQRA and Adoption of Finding of No Significant Impact associated with the Beaver Creek Clean River Project in accordance with 6 NYCRR 617.7 and 617.12
- Resolution 19-16: Declaration of Albany Water Board as Lead Agency and designation of

the Ramsey Place Sewer Separation and Stormwater Management project as an unlisted action pursuant to NY SEQRA and Adoption of Finding of No Significant Impact in accordance with 6 NYCRR 617.7 and 617.12.

- Resolution 19-17: Declaration of Lead Agency pursuant to SEQRA and Adoption of Finding of No Significant Impact associated with the Woodlawn Park Stormwater Re-Use Project in accordance with 6 NYCRR 617.7 and 617.12.
- Resolution 19-18: Authorizing Payments to Cohoes and Rensselaer associated with LTCP debt service payments per the Intermunicipal Agreement.


Executive Session

The Board found no purpose to enter Executive Session for this meeting.

Being no further business, Mr. Houghton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Next regular meeting of the Water Board is scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2019, 9:00am.

Recorded by: Emily Lyons, Confidential Assistant

Approved by: 
Barbara Smith, Secretary